

Appl. No. 10/765,707
Amdt. dated February 27, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A slip collar comprising:

- (a) a tubular outer wall portion;
- (b) a tubular inner wall portion;
- (c) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion;
- (d) a slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,

wherein ~~at least one of~~ the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular inner wall portion, and the intermediate portion ~~comprises~~ all comprise a fiber reinforced plastic material, and form an integral one-piece structure.

Claim 2. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion are each generally cylindrically shaped.

Claim 3. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 4. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the slip collar has only one slot region.

Claim 5. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion is shorter than the tubular outer wall portion.

Claim 6. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a fluoropolymer material.

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Claim 7. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the inner wall portion comprises a cured vinyl ester resin and the outer wall portion comprises a cured phenolic resin.

Claim 8. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive composition in the slot region.

Claim 9. (original) The slip collar of claim 8 wherein the adhesive composition comprises a novalac or an epoxy resin.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A slip collar comprising:

- (a) a tubular outer wall portion;
- (b) a tubular inner wall portion;
- (c) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,
- (d) a first slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion; and
- (e) a second slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,
wherein at least one each of the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular inner wall portion, and the intermediate portion comprises a fiber reinforced plastic material, and
wherein the first and second slot regions face away from each other,
wherein the slip collar is an integral, one-piece structure.

Claim 11. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion are each generally cylindrically shaped.

Claim 12. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

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Claim 13. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the slip collar is adapted to join two duct sections.

Claim 14. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular inner wall portion is shorter than the tubular outer wall portion.

Claim 15. (original) A duct assembly comprising:

- (a) the slip collar of claim 10;
- (b) a first duct including a first end inserted into the first slot region; and
- (c) a second duct including a second end inserted into the second slot region.

Claims 16-25. (canceled).

Claim 26. (previously presented) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the slot region is formed using a milling process.

Claim 27. (new) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular outer portion includes apertures, and wherein set screws are disposed in the apertures.

Claim 28. (new) The slip collar of claim 27 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 29. (new) The slip collar of claim 10, wherein the tubular outer portion includes apertures, and wherein set screws are disposed in the apertures.

Claim 30. (new) The slip collar of claim 29 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

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Claim 31. (new) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein a thickness of the outer wall portion is between about 3/16-inch to about 1-1/2 inches.

Claim 32. (new) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein a thickness of the outer wall portion is between about 3/16-inch to about 1-1/2 inches.

Claim 33. (new) The slip collar of claim 32 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different polymeric materials.

Claim 34. (new) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different materials.

Claim 35. (new) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different materials.